

1406.0.55.002 - User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL), Mar 2006

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 22/02/2012 Reissue



Introduction

Getting started with the RADL

Includes: User requirements, available software and connecting to the RADL

Rules and Restrictions for Use

Includes: User restrictions, ABS identifiers, output and tables, program statements, geographic variables and RADL activity checks

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ABOUT THIS MANUAL

This manual introduces the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) as a mode for accessing ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs).

All users should familiarise themselves with the information in this manual before using a CURF in the RADL and refer to the information regularly while using CURFs.

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WHAT ARE ABS CURFS?

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) are files of responses to ABS surveys or censuses that have had specific identifying information about persons and organisations confidentialised. CURFs contain the most detailed statistical information available from the ABS, and are of most use to researchers and analysts who wish to run their own statistical queries on the data.

The Census and Statistics Act includes a legislative guarantee to respondents that their confidentiality will be protected. This is fundamental to the trust the Australian public has in the ABS, and that trust is in turn fundamental to the excellent quality of ABS information. Without that trust, survey respondents may be less forthcoming or truthful in answering our questionnaires. For more information, see 'Avoiding inadvertent disclosure in published statistics' and 'Microdata' on our web page [How the ABS keeps your information confidential](#).

This legislation allows the Australian Statistician to release unit record data, or microdata, provided this is done "in a manner that is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation to which it relates." The ABS ensures the confidentiality of the data by:

- removing any information that may uniquely identify any individual such as name or address
- changing a small number of values and removing very unusual records
- controlling the detail available for all records on the CURF
- perturbing or randomly adjusting income data
- excluding some data items that were collected.

These changes are made in ways that retain the value of the data for researchers.

There are three different CURF types:

- **Basic CURFs** are the least detailed CURF type. Users can access Basic CURFs in their own environment (from a CD-ROM/DVD). Individual data items in Basic CURFs are likely to be reported at broader levels of their classification than in Expanded or Specialist CURFs.
- **Expanded CURFs** are accessible only in the secure RADL and ABS Data Laboratory (ABSDL) environments. They contain finer levels of detail than Basic CURFs. For example, where a Basic CURF might report an age classification in five-yearly increments, an expanded file may include data against each year.
- **Specialist CURFs** are customised to the clients requirement to serve specific approved statistical purposes, with the cost to produce them fully cost recovered from the client. They may include data items and levels of detail not otherwise released, or may be configured in other ways responding to particular user needs. Specialist CURFs are only available for access in the ABSDL.

More information about the CURF types and modes of access is available on the [CURF Access Modes and Levels of Detail](#) web page.

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WHAT IS THE RADL?

The Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) is a secure online data query service that approved clients access from the ABS website. Within the RADL users submit queries in SAS, SPSS or Stata analytical languages against CURFs that are kept within the ABS environment. The results of the queries are automatically checked then made available to the users. Because the CURFs are kept in the ABS environment, the ABS is able to release more detailed CURFs in the RADL than are available on CD-ROM.

Key features of the RADL include:

- available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- access from any computer with internet access, using your own user name and password
- analytical software (SAS, SPSS and Stata) provided within the system so you don't need your own licence
- batch processing with a quick turnaround
- personal workspace to manage your analysis and saved datasets.

Restrictions on using the RADL include:

- users are bound by the undertaking signed by the head of their organisation and the terms and conditions agreed by each user
- user activity is monitored via regular RADL audits
- some restrictions are applied to queries, and some SAS, SPSS and Stata commands are banned
- some restrictions are applied to the size of the outputs returned to the user.

For further information about the type of restrictions put in place by the ABS, see [Rules and restrictions for use in this manual](#).

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RADL USER REQUIREMENTS

Before you start using the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL), you should read and understand this manual and the Responsible Use of ABS Microdata Guide. The user guide explains the specific responsibilities of microdata users and provides guidelines on the secure management of microdata.

RADL users should familiarise themselves with the information linked in the left hand navigator of the RADL home page, including:

- **CURF reference documentation:** contains important information about each CURF including the technical manual, referencing information, frequency and weighting report
- **Information for all RADL users:** contains general news and information on any recent changes to the RADL
- **ABS alerts:** contains important information and announcements for RADL users which should be checked every time you log into the RADL. Occasionally the ABS will conduct routine maintenance which may affect RADL access, which will be announced here.

RADL users must:

- have been approved by ABS to use the CURF they wish to access in the RADL
- be able to write programs in one of the analytical languages in the RADL (SAS9.1, SPSS11.5 and Stata10).

The ABS does not provide a code advisory service, so familiarity with SAS, SPSS or Stata is important. Log files can be used to determine problems in obtaining output. Further information is available in the RADL Help chapter of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). If you encounter any problems accessing or using the RADL, email the RADL Administrator.

The ABS privacy policy outlines how the ABS handles any personal information that you provide to us.

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AVAILABLE SOFTWARE IN THE RADL

The RADL includes analytical software for the SAS, SPSS and Stata statistical languages. This software is provided in RADL so no licence is necessary in the user's own environment. The RADL contains the following versions and modules:

SAS

RADL uses SAS version 9.1, SAS modules available in RADL are:

- SAS/BASE
- SAS/STAT

SPSS

RADL uses SPSS version 11.5. SPSS modules available in RADL are:

- SPSS Base
- SPSS Regression Models

Stata

RADL uses Stata version 10 special edition. Stata modules available in RADL are:

- Stata Special Edition software
- Stata modules hnblogit and ivreg2
- the user-written svr suite of commands for estimation and analysis using replicate weights

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CONNECTING TO THE RADL

To connect to the RADL, users can either type www.abs.gov.au/radl into the address field of their web browser or go to the Remote Access Data Laboratory web page and click the green 'Access RADL' button.

A warning message may appear. The message indicates that the user is entering a secure web site. Press OK to go to the RADL log-in screen.

Log in using your user name and password supplied by the ABS. The password is case sensitive. Once logged in, the RADL Home page opens. If you do not already have a RADL user name and password from the ABS, you will need to apply for access to CURFs in the [How to Apply for CURFs](#) web page.

Information on submitting a new request (job) using a CURF can be found in the [Submitting a request in the RADL](#) section of this manual.

To log out of the RADL, select 'Log out', either from the navigator on the RADL Home page or from the links at the bottom of most screens. To ensure you are fully logged out of the RADL you should also close your browser at the end of your session. If your RADL session is idle for 30 minutes, any jobs which have not been fully submitted will need to be recreated. You will be prompted to log in again before you are able to resume working in the RADL.

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USER RESTRICTIONS

When using the RADL, users must comply with the following key obligations:

Access

- users must store their user ID and password securely
- users must not allow others to access or use their password, even if they have also been approved for access to the same CURF.

Code

- all datasets of unit records created by the user must include the ABS unit identifiers
- certain program statements must not be used in the RADL. For information on banned commands, see the Restrictions for program statements chapter of this manual
- certain program options must be retained in the RADL. For information, see the Restrictions for program statements chapter of this manual

Output

- users are not permitted to output the entire contents of a CURF, or output subsets of the CURF cumulatively over time outside the RADL
- users are not permitted to output large amounts of unit record data, or combine unit record output cumulatively over time outside the RADL
- outputs will only be returned automatically if the output does not exceed list or table limits and total output size limits
- output released as Keep Secure is considered too detailed for general release and will be provided in a separate Keep Secure output file. Keep Secure output cannot be shared with other people unless they also have been approved by the ABS to access that CURF. Keep Secure output must be stored securely or destroyed after viewing. For more information on how to store microdata securely see the Secure storage of ABS microdata section of the Responsible Use of ABS Microdata guide.
- particular combinations of sub-state geographic data items are not permitted to be used in the generation of analytical outputs. For more information, see the Restrictions for geographic variables section of this manual.

RADL users must cooperate with any ABS directions in respect to their access, code and output.

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RETENTION OF ABS IDENTIFIERS

Users must ensure that they retain the ABS unit identifiers. This applies to temporary datasets as well as users' saved datasets. This enables the automated checking facilities in the RADL to perform confidentiality checks, and assists in the automated clearance of output. Before output is returned to users, RADL automatic checks are applied during the execution of users' submitted code. The checks look for code segments that have inadvertently dropped (or failed to keep) all ABS unit identifiers. If these code segments are found, a message will be printed to the log or output file.

Where a dataset contains more than one ABS unit identifier, all of these must be retained, even though some of them may not be needed for your analysis. A list of unit identifiers can be found for each CURF in the 'CURF reference documentation link' in the navigator of the RADL.

If a unit identifier is removed from a temporary or saved unit record file, the following error message will be displayed:

SAS

The program will terminate as a "Failed" job, with a message appearing in the log file.

*<ABS> ERROR: ABS ID variable ABSHID dropped from input dataset xxxx.xxxxx.
<ABS> ERROR: ABS ID variable ABSPID dropped from input dataset xxxx.xxxxx .
<ABS> ERROR: RADL pre-step dataset check failed. This job will now be aborted.*

SPSS

The program will be terminated, with a message appearing in the log file.

*The unit identifier field(s) ABSFID ABSHID ABSIID ABSJID
were dropped, contrary to RADL rules. This job will be stopped.*

Stata

The program will continue to run, with unit identifiers being automatically retained. A message will appear in the output file.

ABS protection does not allow dropping of the following variable(s): ABSHID

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OUTPUT AND TABLE RESTRICTIONS

Restrictions apply to the amount of data that may be released as output through the RADL.

Unit record data

If the output contains unit record data, the following restrictions apply:

Number of variables	Number of records allowable
1	100
2	90
3	80
4	70
5	60
6	50
7	40
8	30

If these limits are exceeded, the output will not be produced and the log file will contain a message stating that the procedure exceeds the ABS unit record count limit and will not be output. While the unit record identifiers must be retained in user's saved datasets, the identifiers do not need to be included in output files.

Aggregate data

If the output does not contain unit record data, the following restriction applies:

- no more than 1,000 cells (i.e. multiply the number of output categories per variable) may be output.

If this limit is exceeded, the job will be executed but the output will be directed to a file which will be withheld from the user. The following message will be written to the log: 'The <procedure name> step output which would have appeared here exceeded ABS output size limits'. Users wanting to access the withheld output must request the file from the ABS. See the Requesting withheld output if the status of your RADL job is "On Hold" section of this manual.

Frequency counts and cross-tabulations are subject to further checking. This checking will look for small contributor cells. The table is also assessed for sparseness. Both issues are considered when deciding if the table can be released.

Total output

The total output in a particular job (excluding any output already being withheld) will be restricted to the following:

- no more than 100 different unit records may be output
- no more than 8 variables may be output for any one unit record
- no more than 2,000 cells (i.e. multiply output categories per variable) of aggregate data may be output, or
- no more than 300,000 bytes in size may be output.



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RESTRICTIONS FOR PROGRAM STATEMENTS

The RADL incorporates some automated restrictions that disable some functions or commands within SAS, SPSS and Stata. Other options within SAS, SPSS and Stata must be retained.

All languages

- Graphical output is not allowed in the RADL. All program statements creating graphical output are not permitted.
- Particular combinations of sub-state geographic data items are not permitted to be used in the generation of analytical outputs. For more information, see the Restrictions for geographic variables section of this manual.

SAS

The following SAS options must be used. Users are not required to turn on these options as the RADL system does it automatically. However, users should be aware that the RADL will not run their code if these options are turned off.

- mprint
- source
- source2
- symbolgen

Users should not use the following statements. The RADL will generate them automatically.

- filename
- libname

The following SAS commands, functions and macros are not allowed:

- | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • ! | • modulein | • proc chart | • proc power |
| • %ds2csv | • modulen | • proc corr with | (plot |
| • add | • nomprint | plots= option | subcommand) |
| • bye | • nosgen | • proc document | • proc prt |
| • dcreate | • nosource | • proc export | • proc prtdef |
| • endsas | • nosource2 | • proc gplot | • proc prtexp |
| • filename | • nosymbolgen | • proc fcmp | • proc surveyfreq |
| • libname | • ods | • proc glmpower | • proc template |
| • module | • pathname | (plot | • sysexec |
| • modulec | • peek | subcommand) | • system |
| • modulei | • peekc | • proc import | • sysuserid |
| • moduleic | • poke | • proc infomaps | • x |
| | | • proc plot | |

Note that the automated checks for these items currently prevent the use of hexadecimal strings such as ("1F4C"x) although you can use hexadecimal numbers such as 1F4Cx.

SPSS

The RADL specifies values for the following settings:

- box
- errors
- mexpand
- mprint ("set"

- journal statement)
- messages
 - printback
 - results

Users should not use the following statement. The RADL will generate the file handle automatically.

- file handle

The following SPSS commands and functions are not allowed:

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| • !enddefine | • include | • print space | • uncompressed |
| • !noexpand | • print (without | • proximities | (on save or |
| • !offexpand | the outfile= | • report | xsave) |
| • cluster | option) | • script | • write (without |
| • define | • print eject | | the outfile= |
| • finish | (without the | | option) |
| | outfile= option) | | • write formats |

Note that the PRINT FORMATS and WRITE FORMATS statements are permitted.

Stata

Users should not use the following statements. The RADL will generate them automatically.

- adopath
- set memory

The following Stata commands and functions are not allowed:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| • #delimit | • findfile | • pathsearchlist | • svrtab |
| • ado | • for | • pchart | • svymean |
| • adosubdir | • foreach | • pergram | • svyprop |
| • bootstrap | • forvalues | • personal | • svyratio |
| • browse | • gettoken | • plot | • svytab |
| • brr_hadamard | • global | • pr | • svytotal |
| matrixfile | • graph | • program | • syntax |
| • capture | • gr7 | • quietly | • sysdir |
| • cc | • graph7 | • rchart | • sysuse |
| • cchart | • greigen | • renpfix | • tab1 |
| • cci | • grmeanby | • reshape | • tab2 |
| • clear | • help | • roccomp | • tabi |
| • collapse | • hexdump | • rocfits | • tabodds |
| • contract | • histogram | • rocgold | • tabstat |
| • copyright | • istdize | • rocplot | • twoway |
| • corrgram | • ir | • roctab | • type |
| • cs | • iri | • run | • update |
| • csi | • jknife | • serrbar | • version |
| • cumsp | • kap | • set | • view |
| • cusum | • kdensity | • set trace on | • viewsource |
| • diagplots | • line | • shell | • webuse |
| • db | • local | • shewhart | • while |
| • dir | • log | • shriek | • window |
| • display | • lv | • sleep | • winexec |
| • do | • macro | • spikeplot | • wntestb |
| • doedit | • matrix | • stack | • xchart |
| • dotplot | • mcc | • stem | • xcorr |
| • dstdize | • mcci | • stcoxkm | • xmlsave |
| • edit | • mhodds | • stcurve | • xmluse |
| • exit | • more | • stphplot | • xpose |
| • fdasave | • net | • sts | • xttab |
| • fdause | • news | • sunflower | • xttrans |
| • fdades | • noisily | • survwgt | |

Stata commands that produce protected tabular data that are allowable in the RADL include:

- table
- tabulate (ta)
- summarize (su)
- svrmean
- svrtotal
- svrratio

Stata commands that are allowed but are subject to limits:

- list

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RESTRICTIONS FOR GEOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The following restrictions apply to Expanded CURFs only and do not need to be applied to Basic CURFs.

Geographic data items vary between Expanded CURFs but typically include some or all of the following: State, Capital city/balance of state, Section of state, Remoteness and Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA). The remaining variables on the CURF can be referred to as non-geographic data items. As Capital city/balance of state, Section of state, Remoteness and SEIFA split geographic areas (typically States/Territories) into finer areas they are referred to as sub-state geographic data items. Particular combinations of sub-state geographic data items are not permitted to be used in the generation of analytical outputs, whether that output be printing a small number of observations, producing a table or undertaking more complex statistical analyses such as modelling.

The following information provides a more detailed guide to the use of sub-state geographic data items.

Printing (to screen) a limited number of records

- When printing unit records incorporating geographic variables only, there are no restrictions on the number of sub-state geographies that can be used.
- When at least one non-geographic data item is included in the list of variables then users are not permitted to include more than one sub-state geography.

Tabular outputs

- Users are permitted to use unlimited geographic data items in tabular output where no non-geographic data items are output (these are referred to as 'simple' tables).
- Tabular output containing non-geographic data items are permitted to contain a maximum of one sub-state geography.

Analytic outputs

- Users are permitted to use multiple sub-state geographies in some types of analysis where they are not cross-classified with other sub-state geographies. As an example, users are permitted to perform a regression analysis with multiple sub-state geographies as explanatory variables, but would not be permitted to include interaction terms consisting of multiple sub-state geographical data items.

Filtering or subsetting datasets

- Filtering or subsetting datasets by more than one sub-state geographic data item is not permitted. Additionally, any filtering or subsetting of datasets using one sub-state data item constitutes the use of that data item in any subsequent output or analysis. For example, if a dataset has been subset using a particular sub-state geographic data item then any record prints containing non-geographic data items are not permitted to output any further sub-state geographies. Likewise, any tabular output containing non-geographic data items produced from the subset dataset are not permitted to contain any further sub-state geographies.

Deriving new variables

- No new variables are permitted to be derived from the combination of more than one sub-state

geographic data item.

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RADL ACTIVITY CHECKS

Checks of jobs submitted to the RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose is to identify any confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. Confidentiality issues may arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using the RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are reviewed by ABS staff. If misuse of ABS data is identified, the user will be notified and the matter discussed. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS directions with respect to their code and output.

Any breach of the CURF Undertaking, may result in withdrawal of service to individuals and/or organisations. Further information is contained in the [Consequences of Failing to Comply](#) web page.

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SUBMITTING A REQUEST

To interrogate a CURF, a request (code) must be submitted. All requests are run in batch mode. Interactive (or point-and-click) processing is not available in the RADL.

After connecting to the RADL, submit a request by clicking on the 'Submit new request' link from the navigator on the RADL Home page. This will take you to the New Microdata Request form which contains the following fields:

Job name: enter a name for your job, this will help you recognise the job when checking your output

Description: enter a description for your job, this is not a mandatory field and can be left blank

Language (drop-down box): select the statistical language that will be used. Note the Innovation languages must be used with the Innovation CURF

Microdata: select the CURF dataset that you will be using

Source code: source code can be submitted via a plain text file (.txt), a SAS (.sas) file or a Stata (.do) file saved to your computer. This is done by clicking on the 'Browse...' button and locating the code file that will be used. Alternatively you can manually enter your code by clicking on the 'Enter Code...' button

Estimated execution time: jobs should be run as normal (< 10 minutes) in most cases. If your jobs are timing out or you are running complex modelling, select Long (>=10 minutes)

Notify by email when complete? select 'yes' if you want to receive an email notifying you once your job has completed

Submit: when all fields have been completed click 'submit'.

Note that all fields marked with an asterisk on the form are mandatory.



Remote Access Data Laboratory

New Microdata Request (Reference: 0135)

Status: New Request

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Requestor: Your name

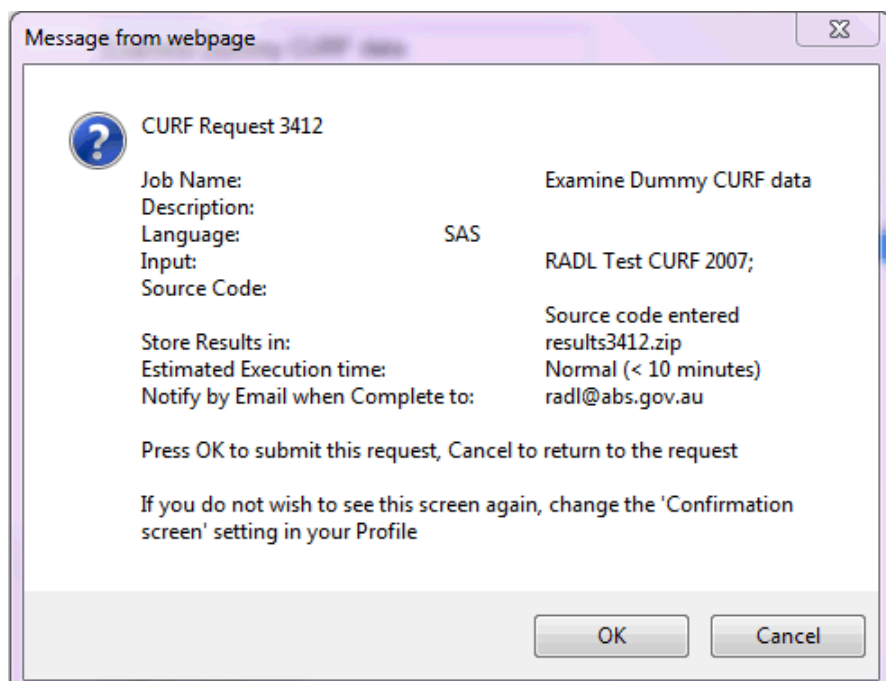
Submitted: Today 11:40 AM

Retention Period: 14 (days)

Fields marked * are mandatory fields.

* Job name:	<input type="text" value="Examine Dummy CURF data"/>
Description:	<input type="text"/>
* Language:	<input type="text" value="SAS"/>
* Input:	
Microdata:	<div>Population Census HSF 2001 Expanded Post Production Test Pregnancy and Employment Transitions Surv RADL Test CURF 2007</div>
* Source code:	
Location of file containing code:	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Browse..."/>
OR	
Enter code:	<input type="button" value="Enter Code..."/>
Estimated execution Time:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Normal (< 10 minutes) <input type="radio"/> Long (>= 10 minutes)
Notify by email when complete?:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes at <input type="text" value="Your name @ Your work"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Once all the mandatory fields have been completed, the user can submit their request for processing by pressing Submit. If the confirmation screen has not been turned off in the user's personal profile the following screen will appear. This screen confirms the details of the job that is about to be submitted. If the request is correct press OK, otherwise press Cancel to return to the request.



Once a request has been submitted (i.e. by pressing OK), the user will be directed to a new screen which provides a number of options, including submitting another request, checking the status of previous requests, and logging out of the RADL. Each option can be activated by clicking on the relevant underlined text. If the submission screen has been turned off you will be taken to the screen which shows your requests sorted by job name. For more information see the Managing your user profile section of this manual.

Status: this field is updated as the status of the job changes. For example, New Request, Complete, Failed, etc. Press refresh in your browser to update the status

Requestor: this field refers to the person who submitted the job. Users can only see their own jobs

Submitted: this field states the date and time that a job was submitted

Retention Period: refers to how many days a submitted job will be accessible via the RADL. Users can modify the retention period in a number different ways. For more detail on the ways to modify the retention period see the Changing job retention periods section of this manual.

Each request submitted will be allocated a unique reference number. This is used to assist in the identification of jobs, for example, Reference: 0020. This reference number is appended to the end of all file names produced by the RADL system, for example, output0020.txt.

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HOW TO REFERENCE THE CURF IN YOUR CODE

Referencing a CURF in your code

When submitting a job users are required to select the CURF(s) which will be accessed by that job. The RADL system requires that you reference each dataset (level) of the CURF that you want to use. The following is an example for the General Social Survey 2010 Expanded CURF:

Language	Code example for referencing CURF	Further information
SAS	SET GSS10E.GSS10EP SET GSS10E.GSS10ESD	A 'libref' will be assigned by the RADL to the SAS datasets. The libref can be used by clients to reference the datasets, so SAS similar commands can be used in your RADL code. The SAS database also contains a 'format' catalogue which contains formats which have been applied to the variables in the datasets. This formats library will be automatically assigned by the RADL for any code using this CURF.
Stata	use "`GSS10EP" use "`GSS10ESD"	Macro variables containing the path names to the CURFs are automatically generated in the RADL. When using these references take care to use the correct characters for the single quotes.
SPSS	GET FILE=GSS10EP. GET FILE=GSS10ESD.	A 'file handle' will be assigned by the RADL to the SPSS datasets. These file handles can be used by clients to reference the datasets, so SPSS syntax similar to the example can be used in your RADL code.

For the complete set of file references see the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL.

In order to maintain the integrity of the CURFs users are given read access to the CURF files - CURFs cannot be over-written. Given this restriction if you want to modify the CURF you will need to save a copy of the CURF. For more information about saving CURFs in the RADL see the How to save files to your personal workspace section of this manual.

Using more than one CURF together

It is possible to use more than one CURF together in your analysis. However, you may only merge aggregate data to unit record data, or aggregate to aggregate data between the CURFs. You must not merge unit record to unit record data across CURFs.

To merge CURFs, in the New Request screen, select more than one CURF in the Microdata window by holding down the Control button on your keyboard. You will also need to reference both CURFs in your code. Alternatively your code can reference a saved dataset from one CURF and reference another CURF that you have selected in the Microdata window.

There are certain CURFs that cannot be used together. These CURFs are provided to users under a separate user ID so that they cannot be combined. These additional user IDs will end with "_INNOV", "_STATE", "_DETAIL", or "_REM".

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SAMPLE CODE FOR GETTING STARTED

Introductory RADL sessions for SAS, SPSS and Stata are available in the 'Information for all RADL users' section of the RADL. The information is intended to introduce users to the RADL system and using code to produce basic tables and statistics.

Additional code examples provided in this manual are linked below:

- [displaying a complete list of variable names](#)
- [producing aggregate data in Comma Separated Value format](#)
- [cross-tabulations](#)
- [merging levels within a CURF](#)
- [creating ranges](#)
- [saving files and using saved datasets](#)
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HOW TO SAVE FILES TO YOUR PERSONAL WORKSPACE

Users can save SAS, SPSS and Stata files in their personal workspace within the RADL. This workspace is accessible for all the jobs you submit, allowing you to save and reuse files across sessions. Users are not able to access files outside their workspace and cannot share saved dataset with other users. It is not necessary to specify the location when saving files. To manage the files that you have saved to your workspace, refer to the File management chapter of this manual.

Procedures for saving and reusing files are:

SAS

A library reference of 'saved' will be created for all SAS jobs. This can be used for saving derived SAS datasets to your workspace and for accessing previously saved datasets. To save a SAS output dataset to your personal workspace use:

```
data saved.MYSAS (keep = ABSHID ABSPID age sex income);  
run;
```

To retrieve this dataset in a subsequent RADL job use data=saved.MYSAS. For example, to create a frequency table from this saved dataset use:

```
proc freq data=saved.MYSAS;  
tables age*sex;  
run;
```

SPSS

A library reference of 'saved' will be created for all SPSS jobs. This can be used for saving derived SPSS datasets to your workspace and for accessing previously saved datasets. To save an SPSS output dataset to your personal workspace use:

```
save outfile = saved'MYSPSS'.
```

To retrieve this dataset in a subsequent RADL job use:

```
get file=saved'MYSPSS'
```

Note: the single quote marks must be used.

Stata

A macro variable is automatically generated that helps you reference files you want to save and reuse in later jobs. The macro `SAVED` (in uppercase) points to your personal data store. Within RADL this macro resolves to a text string that contains the path name to your personal workspace. When you save a dataset you need to refer to it using `SAVED` as a prefix. Since the path name may contain spaces, it is best to put all RADL macro invocations in double quotes. To save a dataset use the command:

```
save " `SAVED'MYSTATA"
```

To retrieve this dataset in a subsequent RADL job use:

```
use " `SAVED'MYSTATA"
```

Note: when using this workspace reference take care to use the correct characters for the single quotes.

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CHECKING SUBMITTED JOBS AND OUTPUT

To check the status of a previously submitted job, select one of the 'View requests by' links from the navigator on the RADL home page. Submitted jobs can be viewed by Status, Date, Job name or by CURF. If the submitted job is not listed on the screen, press the Refresh button on the browser to update the screen. It may take a few minutes for a new job to be displayed.

The first link displayed is a copy of the request that was originally submitted and contains the job name given to the request. This file contains the original code that was included in the request.

Results: The second link entitled 'Results' contains the output and log files generated from the request. All the results documents have been zipped into one file entitled results#.zip that can either open or save depending on the settings of the software used. If the job has successfully completed the results#.zip may contain:

- **output#.txt:** this output has low confidentiality risk and is considered safe for sharing or publishing. By opening the output#.txt users can view the output from the job including statistical procedures and listings of temporary datasets that do not contain unit record data.
- **keep_secure#.txt:** this contains output too detailed for general release. This output must not be shown to anyone who does not have access to the CURF and the results cannot be published without permission from the ABS. By opening the keep_secure#.txt (if present), users can view output from their SAS, SPSS and Stata jobs which contains too much detail for general release. The amount of such data that may be returned is small. If users try to output more than a predefined maximum amount of data this step will not be executed, although the rest of the job will still run. For further information see the Rules and restrictions for use section of this manual.
- **log#.txt:** this file contains a detailed record of how your job was run. This file may include RADL messages about output that has been withheld or denied. It may also contain details about errors if the job did not run successfully. If all the output was withheld, only the log file will be produced. The log file users receive back from the ABS has been processed by the RADL system. This may limit information available for debugging of code (if it did not run as expected). The ABS has provided a list of frequently asked questions, sample code and introductory sessions in SAS, SPSS and Stata which may also help users to debug code.
- **File ManagementLog#.txt:** file management output is titled file managementLog#.txt. For more information see the File management chapter of this manual.

Validation: To assist users to validate their results the ABS provides frequency and weighting reports specific to each CURF. These are available in the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL and have been made available for CURFs released after September 2003.

Withheld output: If the log file or output files indicate that data was withheld for any reason it is possible to request that output be released. To request the release of withheld output, select the link 'Request Withheld Output' in the results screen. Further information is contained in the Requesting withheld output if the status of your RADL job is "On Hold" section of this manual.

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REQUESTING WITHHELD OUTPUT IF THE STATUS OF YOUR RADL JOB IS "ON HOLD"

If the log file or output files indicate that data was withheld for any reason it is possible to request that output be released. Denied output will not be released. To request the release of withheld output, go to the results screen and select the link 'Request Withheld Output'.

Another screen will appear, requiring the following information:

- name of the file or files. More than one can be requested as long as it all relates to the one job (as indicated by the job number). The file name will be included in the log (example hold5.txt)
- a description of the outputs included in the file
- any further relevant comments.

Once this screen is completed, click OK. An automated email is sent to the RADL Administrator requesting the file. Users will be contacted within one working day about the progress of their request.

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EDITING YOUR PERSONAL PROFILE

To edit your personal profile click on the Your Profile link from the navigator on the RADL Home page.

To change information or options on this page, click on the Edit link at the bottom of the page (or double-click anywhere on the screen). Information that can be changed includes:

- address
- phone number
- email address
- organisation
- data retention period
- confirmation screen (display preference)
- submission screen (display preference)

Once the appropriate changes have been made, click on the Save and Exit link at the bottom of the screen. If the changes are not required to be saved, click on the Exit link. Note that users cannot change Name and Available ABS Data. If either of these fields are not correct, contact the RADL Administrator at radl@abs.gov.au.

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CHANGING JOB RETENTION PERIODS

The retention period refers to how many days a submitted job will be accessible from the RADL. The default retention period is set in the user's profile. The initial default retention period is 7 days, but this can be modified according to user's needs. Setting the retention days to zero will keep jobs indefinitely.

The retention period can be amended in several different ways, in the:

Submit new request screen (for a new job): when submitting a new job the retention period field in the New Request screen can be edited. This change to the retention period relates to this job only.

View requests by link (for a previously submitted job): when checking a previously submitted job, the user can change the retention period by going back into the request document. Once in the request document, select the link Change Retention Period. Enter the new retention period and select OK. This will modify the retention period for this job only.

Your Profile: in the personal profile, users can edit the default retention period for all new requests.

Changing the default retention period in the personal profile will affect all new requests submitted after this change. It will not change the retention period for previously submitted jobs.

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WHAT IS FILE MANAGEMENT?

RADL users can save files when running jobs in the RADL. Saved files can then be used in subsequent RADL jobs. Saved files are stored in the user's personal workspace in the RADL and can be managed using the File Management facility.

To access the File Management facility use the New Request screen in the RADL. The procedure to submit a File Management request is identical to submitting a request relating to a CURF using SAS, SPSS or Stata with the following exceptions:

- Select File Management as the language for your program (instead of SAS, SPSS, Stata or Innovation CURF versions of the languages)
- No input Microdata is required to be selected for a File Management job
- Specific File Management commands must be used to manage data holdings. These are outlined in the File management command code section of this manual.

This facility allows users to obtain a directory listing of their data holdings, and to rename or delete files. Users cannot open or access the data directly from the File Management facility. Information on how to save and use saved datasets is outlined in the How to save files to your personal workspace section of this manual.

To ensure the RADL runs smoothly we rely on users to delete saved datasets that they no longer need.

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FILE MANAGEMENT COMMAND CODE

The File management facility within the RADL supports three simple commands, and also allows a user to include comments or blank lines in their File Management code. Click on the Enter Code... button to enter your File Management commands. Each File Management command is entered as text and must be entered with one command per line. The functions available are:

Directory Listing: to obtain a listing of all RADL files, users must use the dir (directory or list) command. This command has no parameters, i.e. enter the command name by itself. Users will receive a directory listing in their job output.

dir

Deletion of Files: to delete any RADL files, users must use the del (delete) command. The del command is followed by one or more specifications of files to delete. Each specification may be an explicit file name or may contain wildcards as for DOS (e.g. *).

del oldstuff.txt (This deletes the file called oldstuff.txt)

del *.tmp (This deletes all files ending in .tmp)

del other.* (This deletes all files called 'other' irrespective of their file type)

Renaming Files: should users wish to rename any of their saved datasets, they must use the ren (rename) command. The ren command is followed by the current name of the file and then the new name the user wishes to assign to it. Special characters may not be used.

ren myjob.txt keepit.txt (This renames a file from 'myjob.txt' to 'keepit.txt')

Adding comments: users may include comments into their code with the other File Management commands (dir, del or ren) when submitting File Management jobs. Blank lines may also be used to make the code more readable. Comments in the File Management facility, like other commands, must be entered as single-line statements. To put include a comment in the File Management job, start the comment line with either comment, rem (remark) or * followed by a space.

comment Deleting old files (This includes a comment 'Deleting old files' within a file management job)

rem Checking my files (This includes a comment 'Checking my files' within a file management job)

* Updating file names (This includes a comment 'Updating file names' within a file management job)

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BEGINNING YOUR ANALYSIS

What should I do before I start using RADL?

Where can I find information about the CURF and data items?

Why can't I see my approved CURFs in the RADL?

How do I get a complete list of variable names for my CURF?

How do I validate my results?

What should I do before I start using the RADL?

Prior to submitting your code and commencing your analysis, RADL users must:

- have been approved by ABS to use the CURF they wish to access in the RADL
- have familiarised themselves with the Technical Manual and any Information Papers relating to the CURF
- have read the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)
- have read the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs
- be able to write programs in one of the analytical languages in the RADL (SAS9.1, Stata10 or SPSS11.5), as ABS does not provide a code advisory service
- know how to use an internet browser
- be able to use a zip program (WinZip or equivalent programs).

Where can I find information about the CURF and data items?

Technical Manuals or Information papers providing information regarding the data items and variables for each CURF are available in the 'CURF reference documentation' > 'CURF documentation' section of the RADL. These documents are CURF specific and should be read before using a CURF as well as referred to regularly while using a CURF.

Why can't I see my approved CURFs in the RADL?

There are three possible reasons:

- Check that you have completed all steps in the New Request screen. For further assistance see the Submitting a request in the RADL section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL)
- For some CURFs, additional RADL user IDs are allocated to approved users. Some users will have user identifiers ending with "_INNOV", "_STATE", "_DETAIL", or "_REM". If you have one of these user IDs you should log in with each of your user IDs to check whether the CURF you want to use is attached to your other ID
- Your application for access has not yet been finalised. Check in MiCRO to see the status of your CURF application or contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714 for assistance.

If this doesn't fix the problem, contact the RADL Administrator for assistance by emailing radl@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

How do I get a complete list of variable names for my CURF?

A full list of variables and their short names can be obtained:

- from the 'CURF reference documentation' section of the RADL
- via the Data Item List linked from the Expected and available Microdata web page (click on the CURF link, go to the Downloads tab)

- by running a job to display the variables within the referenced dataset. Below are some examples of the code required to run these jobs. Note that you will need to run one of these for each level within a CURF.

SAS

```
proc contents data = LIBNAME.CURFLEVEL1 ;  
run;
```

SPSS

```
get file = CURFLEVEL1.  
display variables.  
execute.
```

Stata

```
use ``CURFLEVEL1 ''  
describe
```

How do I validate my results?

The 'CURF reference documentation' > 'CURF documentation' section of the RADL contains frequency and weighting reports. These reports have been made available to assist users in validating their results.

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MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

What are ABS unit identifiers and why do I need to use them?

How do I find out what the unit record identifiers are?

Which datasets must include ABS unit identifiers?

Will all CURFs contain the same unit record identifiers?

What is a RADL audit?

Are there any other mandatory requirements for using the RADL?

What are ABS unit identifiers and why do I need to use them?

The ABS unit identifiers are unique unit record identifiers that can be used to match the multiple levels of a dataset together. Common examples include:

- ABSHID ABS Person Identifier
- ABSFID ABS Family Identifier
- ABSIID ABS Income Unit Identifier
- ABSPID ABS Person Identifier
- ABSCID ABS All Conditions Identifier
- ABRSID ABS Restrictions Identifier
- ABSSAID ABS Specific Activities Identifier
- ABSRCID ABS All Recipients Identifier
- ABSBAID ABS Broad Activities Identifier
- ABSAPID ABS Providers of Assistance Identifier

The ABS unit identifiers also enable the automated checking facilities in the RADL to perform confidentiality checks, and assist in the automated clearance of your output. You must retain all ABS unit identifiers when running jobs and creating saved datasets containing unit record data. When jobs are run without retaining the ABS unit identifiers, this will cause the job to fail and it will not generate any output.

How do I find out what the unit record identifiers are?

Refer to the RADL documentation for each CURF you are using to see which ABS unit identifiers are used in that CURF. The documentation is in the 'CURF reference documentation' link of the navigator of the RADL.

Which datasets must include ABS unit identifiers?

All datasets that you create that include unit record data must contain the ABS assigned unit identifier fields for that data. This includes your temporary (work) datasets. Do not drop unit identifier fields (i.e. if you only keep a subset of variables, the unit identifier fields must be in this subset). Do not rename these fields. Make sure you input these fields if you are reading a text data file version of a CURF. Saved files containing aggregate data only do not need to retain unit identifiers.

Will all CURFs contain the same unit record identifiers?

Unit identifiers are not always the same and may not always remain the same for different year versions of the same CURF. For example, the National Health Survey, 2001 contains two unit identifiers, while the National Health Survey, 2004-05 contains five unit identifiers.

What is a RADL audit?

Audits of jobs submitted to the RADL are conducted throughout the year by the ABS. The purpose of these audits is to identify confidentiality issues within users' code, log or output files. Confidentiality issues may

arise through users failing to follow, accidentally or otherwise, restrictions or rules for using the RADL.

For each job that is audited, the code, log and output files are manually inspected by ABS staff. If a confidentiality issue is identified, the user will be notified. Users are required to cooperate with any ABS directions in respect to their code and output.

Are there any other mandatory requirements for using the RADL?

To view all mandatory requirement for using the RADL see the Rules and restrictions for use section of this User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

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JOB STATUSES

What does my job's status mean?

What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

What does my job's status mean?

Submitted to RunCasper: This is the status that all SAS jobs go to after they have been submitted while they are waiting to complete. If you find that your jobs are not progressing, see What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

Submitted to Qman: This status is the stage that SPSS and Stata jobs go to after they have been submitted while they are waiting to complete. If you find that your jobs are not progressing, see below: What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

Error: The Error status occurs when there is a system error during a job submission. If this occurs, try submitting your job again, or contact the RADL Administrator for assistance by emailing radl@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

Failed: The Failed status occurs when there has been an error in the submitted code. There are a few reasons why a job may fail, such as code error, failing to reference the CURF, spelling mistakes and failing to retain unit identifiers. Review the log file and your code.

Timed out: The Timed out status occurs when your job has not completed within time limits. When submitting a new request within the RADL, you have the option of running it as a "Normal" job, which will run for up to 10 minutes. If the job has not completed within 10 minutes, the job will be set to "Timed out" and will not finish. The second option is to run the job as a "Long" job, this will allow the job to run for longer than 10 minutes. If you have run your job as a "Normal" job and are experiencing timing out, it is recommended that you try running your job as a long job. An alternative to running a 'long' job is to split your code into several smaller jobs. You should also check your log file and your code. If you continue to have problems, contact the RADL Administrator for assistance by emailing radl@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

Complete: The Complete status occurs when your job has completed without error. Note that a status of Complete does not necessarily mean the output has been generated (e.g. if your code does not ask for output).

On Hold: The On Hold status occurs when generated output has been withheld for manual clearance. Output may be withheld due to exceeding file size or level of detail limits. If you receive the On Hold status, you can request your output to be released by clicking on the "Request Withheld Outputs" link on the job results page. For further information see the Requesting withheld output if the status of your RADL job is "On Hold" section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

If a normal job (not including long jobs) does not appear to be progressing after 10 minutes and has a status of 'submitted', you can:

- check your log file and code for mistakes
- check that you have retained all unit identifiers
- check for RADL alerts - occasionally ABS conduct routine maintenance that may affect RADL users
- try submitting your job again.

If the job still doesn't complete, contact the RADL Administrator for assistance by emailing radl@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

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OUTPUT

What do the different output types mean?

How do I validate my results?

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How should I store output exported from the RADL?

How do I produce aggregate data in Comma Separated Value format?

Can the RADL output be produced in HTML format?

Is graphical output available from the RADL?

What do the different output types mean?

There are several different categories of output files and there are different use and storage obligations for each. For further information see the Checking submitted jobs and output section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

General release output: This output has low confidentiality risk and is considered safe for sharing or publishing. General release output files are attached in the Results section of your job, and can be saved in your own environment.

Keep secure output: This output is too detailed for general release. Keep Secure output cannot be shared with other users unless they also have been approved by the ABS to access that CURF. Keep secure output files are attached in the Results section of your job and can be saved in your own environment. The Keep secure output must be stored securely or destroyed after viewing. For more information on how to store microdata securely see the Secure storage of ABS CURF microdata page of the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs.

Withheld output: This output has been deemed risky and requires manual clearance by an ABS RADL Administrator. Withheld output can occur when output exceeds file size limits, contains a large number of single contributor cells or your code uses certain commands. Withheld output is not provided with the job results, but can be requested from the job results page. For further information see the Requesting withheld output if the status of your RADL job is "On Hold" section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). Withheld output that is approved to be released is usually released as Keep secure output.

Denied output: Output that has been denied will not be generated. This occurs when the output contains too much detail for the system to release. Denied output cannot be requested.

How do I validate my results?

The 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL contains frequency and weighting reports. These reports have been made available to assist users in validating their results.

Can I save my datasets in the RADL?

Datasets created in the RADL can be saved to your personal workspace in the RADL. For instructions, see How to save files to your personal workspace in this User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). Datasets cannot be saved outside your personal workspace (for example to your hard drive).

How should I store output exported from the RADL?

For information on the storage of microdata output see the Secure storage of ABS CURF microdata section of the User Manual: Responsible Use of ABS CURFs.

How do I produce aggregate data in Comma Separated Value format?

The RADL has a method for producing Comma Separated Value (CSV) format output in all three languages. When producing these outputs, it is important to remember that output can and may be denied due to file size limits, so you may want to limit the amount you wish to output per job.

SAS

The %PrintCSV macro in SAS provides users with the ability to produce protected aggregate output in CSV format. The macro should be invoked by the user directly after creating the aggregate dataset by using, for example, Proc Freq or Proc Summary. The macro outputs these datasets in CSV format to the relevant output file.

```
proc freq data=CURFLEVEL1 noprint;
tables age*sex /out=out_table;
run;
%printCSV;
```

There is also an option to suppress printing of column headings:

```
proc freq data=CURFLEVEL1 noprint;
tables age*sex /out=out_table;
run;
%printCSV(title=none);
```

The "%PrintCSV" macro should be used instead of a data step which includes a 'put' statement:

```
proc freq data=CURFLEVEL1 noprint;
tables age*sex/out=out_table;
run;
data _null_;
set out_table;
put sas ',' sex ',' age ',' count;
run;
```

To apply the "%PrintCSV" correctly remove the data step which includes the 'put' statement:

```
proc freq data=CURFLEVEL1 noprint;
tables age*sex/out=out_table;
run;
%PrintCSV
```

SPSS

The List command for SPSS will create output in a format similar to the CSV format but must only be used in conjunction with aggregated datasets.

```
get file saved.AGGREGATEFILE.
list VARIABLE1 VARIABLE2 VARIABLE3 VARIABLE4 VARIABLE5 VARIABLE6 VARIABLE7.
```

STATA

There is no equivalent function for Stata.

Can the RADL output be produced in HTML format?

The RADL does not support HTML output. RADL output is produced in txt format. See also How do I produce aggregate data in Comma Separated Value format?.

Is graphical output available from the RADL?

Graphical output not available in the RADL due to the risk of disclosure.



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ERRORS AND PROBLEMS

Why can't I see my approved CURFs in the RADL?

I get an error message saying that the dataset can't be found

I get an error message saying that the variable can't be found

What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

What do I do if I am having coding problems?

My output is being denied but I'm not sure why

Why can't I use bootstrapping commands in RADL?

What are Parser Errors?

Why can't I see my approved CURFs in the RADL?

There are three possible reasons:

- Check that you have completed all steps in the Submit new request screen. For further assistance see the Submitting a request in the RADL section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).
- For some CURFs, additional RADL user IDs are allocated to approved users. Some users will have user identifiers ending with "_INNOV", "_STATE", "_DETAIL", or "_REM". If you have one of these user IDs you should log in with each of your user IDs to check whether the CURF you want to use is attached to your other ID.
- Your application for access may not have been finalised yet. Check in MiCRO to see the status of your CURF application or contact microdata.access@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714 for assistance.

I get an error message saying that the dataset can't be found

Check that the dataset is being referenced correctly. Information on library and dataset names is available in the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL.

If you are trying to access a saved dataset, check that the dataset exists. You can do this by using File management command code.

I get an error message saying that the variable can't be found

Check that the variable is being spelt correctly (especially check for underscores, and the case) and that the variable is available on the CURF being accessed. Information on variable names is available in the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL. A common problem is that a variable may be available one level of the CURF but not another, for example on the household level file, but not the person level file.

What do I do if a job does not appear to be progressing?

If a normal job (not including long jobs) does not appear to be progressing after 10 minutes and has a status of 'submitted', you can:

- check your log file and code for mistakes
- check that you have retained all unit identifiers
- check for RADL alerts - occasionally ABS conduct routine maintenance that may affect RADL users
- try submitting your job again.

If the job still doesn't complete, contact the RADL Administrator for assistance by emailing radl@abs.gov.au or call 02 6252 7714.

What do I do if I am having coding problems?

The ABS does not provide a code advisory service however the ABS have produced introductory RADL tutorials for SAS, SPSS or Stata. The tutorials introduce users to the RADL system and use code to produce basic tables and statistics. The tutorials are available in the 'Information for all RADL Users' link in the navigator of the RADL.

Here are some common problems that users experience:

- failing to reference the CURF properly
- not typing variable names in upper case when using Stata.

Common problems with SAS code:

- missing, or extra semicolons - check that your semicolons are where they should be
- missing 'by' statements when merging data sets
- merging levels within a CURF with variables that exist on both, but don't always take the same value on both
- performing character operations with numeric variables, or vice versa
- attempting to use banned commands.

Common problems with Stata code:

- attempting to use user-written packages which have not been added to the RADL
- attempting to use banned commands (particularly svrtab)
- excessively long lines of code (use continuation character "///" and start a new line).

Check your job's log file to see where the errors are occurring within your code, this will help determine where your code is going wrong.

My output is being denied but I'm not sure why

Output may be denied due to exceeding file size or level of detail limits. You can try splitting your code or output into smaller sections. While this is allowed for aggregate output, note that cumulatively downloaded unit record level output is not allowed and is audited.

RADL SPSS sometimes denies output and does not print an appropriate error message as a result of code references to non-existent variables. Check the spelling of all variables (especially underscores) and re-run your job. For further information about variable names, see the data item list in the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL.

Why can't I use bootstrapping commands in RADL?

Bootstrapping commands are banned in RADL.

To use bootstrap commands appropriately a user needs to be able to identify the Primary Selection Units (PSU). In the case of ABS CURFs, all respondents in the same Collection District (CD) belong to the same PSU. However, grouping respondents into PSUs significantly increases the risk of a respondent being identified so the ABS cannot release this information. To enable researchers to produce accurate variance estimates, the ABS releases the replicate weights which take the sample design into consideration, as well as any other steps in the estimation process such as non-response adjustments.

For Stata users, the ABS has made available the user-supplied svr suite of commands to assist users in calculating standard errors using replicate weights. See the How can I use the replicate weights in analysis or estimation of sampling error? section of the Survey and replicate weights section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

What are Parser Errors?

Parser errors occur when a conflict arises between a user's code and the built-in protections of the RADL and usually occurs in conjunction with the use of 'Array' statements. To fix a parser error you will need to alter the code. Additionally the following words are considered 'keywords' in SAS and can't be used as variable names in the RADL.

AND	ELSE	LE	MODIFY	SAME
BETWEEN	END	LIKE	NE	SELECT
CALL	EQ	LINES	NOT	SET

CARDS	FILE	LINES4	NULL	SQL
CARDS4	GE	LOG	OPTIONS	TABLES
CONTAINS	GT	LT	OR	THEN
DATA	IF	MAX	OTHERWISE	TITLE
DATALINES	IN	MERGE	OUT	UPDATE
DATALINES4	IS	MIN	PROC	WHEN
DO	LAST	MISSING	QUIT	

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SAMPLE CODE AND USING CURFS

How do I generate a cross-tabulation?

How do I create ranges in my data?

How do I save a dataset I have created from a CURF?

Can I merge two levels within a CURF?

Can I merge two CURFs?

What is the difference between unit record data and aggregate data?

How do I generate a cross-tabulation?

The following are examples of how to run a cross-tabulation in each language:

SAS

```
proc freq data=LIBNAME.CURFLEVEL1 ;  
table VARIABLE1*VARIABLE2*VARIABLE3 ;  
format VARIABLE1 FORMAT1. VARIABLE2 FORMAT2. VARIABLE3 FORMAT3. ;  
weight WEIGHT;  
run;
```

SPSS

```
get file=CURFLEVEL1.  
weight by WEIGHT.  
execute.
```

```
crosstabs  
/tables=VARIABLE1 by VARIABLE2 by VARIABLE3  
/formats=avalue tables  
/cells=counts.
```

Stata

```
use ""CURFLEVEL1 ""  
table VARIABLE1 VARIABLE2 VARIABLE3
```

How do I create ranges in my data?

The following are examples of how to create ranged data in each language using the age variable:

SAS

You can create ranged data within SAS by using the Proc Format function.

```
proc format;  
value agef  
low - 14 = 'under 15'  
15 - 24 = '15-19'  
25 - 34 = '25-34'  
35 - 44 = '35-44'  
45 - 54 = '45-54'  
55 - 64 = '55-64'  
65 - 74 = '65-74'  
75 - 84 = '75-84'
```

85 - high = '85+';

```
proc freq data = LIBNAME.CURFLEVEL1;  
table age;  
format age agef. ;  
run;
```

SPSS

You can create ranged data within SPSS by using the Recode function.

```
get file=CURFLEVEL1.  
execute.
```

```
recode AGE (LO thru 14=1) (15 thru 24=2) (25 thru 34=3) (35 thru 44=4)  
(45 thru 54=5) (55 thru 64=6) (65 thru 74=7) (75 thru 84=8) (85 thru HI=9) into AGEGRP.  
variable labels AGEGRP 'Age Group'.  
execute.  
value labels AGEGRP 1 'under 15', 2 '15-19', 3 '25-34', 4 '35-44',  
5 '45-54', 6 '55-64', 7 '65-74', 8 '75-84', 9 '85+'.
```

```
frequencies variables=AGEGRP  
/statistics=minimum maximum mode  
/order=analysis.
```

Stata

You can create ranged data within Stata by using the Recode function.

```
use "`CURFLEVEL1'"
```

```
generate agegroup = age  
label variable agegroup "Age Group"  
recode agegroup (0/14=1) (15/24=2) (25/34=3) (35/44=4) (45/54=5) (55/64=6) (65/74=7) (75/84=8)  
(85/150=9)  
label define agegrouplbl 1 "under 15" 2 "15-19" 3 "25-34" 4 "35-44" 5 "45-54" 6 "55-64" 7 "65-74" 8 "75-84" 9  
"85+", modify  
label value agegroup agegrouplbl  
list agegroup in 1/10
```

How do I save a dataset I have created from a CURF?

You can save your work in the RADL and then use your saved dataset in a later job. Example code showing you how to save datasets and use saved datasets is in the How to save files to your personal workspace section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Can I merge two levels within a CURF?

You can merge multiple levels of a CURF. This is done by sorting each level by a common ABS unit identifier, then merging by the same identifier. Merged datasets can be saved in your personal workspace in the RADL for later use. For more information about saving, see the How to save files to your personal workspace section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

Below are some examples on how to merge two levels within a CURF, using SAS, SPSS or Stata.

SAS:

```
proc sort data = LIBNAME.CURFLEVEL1 out = psndata;  
by ABSHID;  
proc sort data = LIBNAME.CURFLEVEL2 out = hhdata;  
by ABSHID;
```

```
data SAVED.MERGED;  
merge psndata hhdata;  
by ABSHID;  
run;
```

SPSS:

```
get file CURFLEVEL1.  
sort cases by ABSHID.  
get file CURFLEVEL2.  
sort cases by ABSHID.  
match files file=*  
/table=CURFLEVEL1  
/by ABSHID.  
execute.  
save outfile = SAVED'MERGED'.
```

Stata:

```
use "`CURFLEVEL1'"  
sort ABSHID ABSIID ABSPID ABSFID  
save "`SAVED'XTRAVARS", replace  
  
use "`CURFLEVEL2'"  
sort ABSHID ABSIID ABSPID  
save "`SAVED'NEWVARS", replace  
  
use "`SAVED'NEWVARS"  
merge ABSHID ABSIID ABSPID using "`SAVED'XTRAVARS"  
save "`SAVED'MERGED", replace
```

Can I merge two CURFs?

You can merge two CURFs. However, you may only merge aggregate data to unit record data, or aggregate to aggregate data between the CURFs. You must not merge unit record to unit record data across CURFs.

To merge CURFs, in the New Request screen, select more than one CURF in the Microdata window by holding down the Control button on your keyboard. You will also need to reference both CURFs in your code. Alternatively your code can reference a saved dataset from one CURF and reference another CURF that you have selected in the Microdata window. Note that not all CURFs will have the same variable names, so you may need to use renaming commands within your code. Further information about referencing in your code is available in the How to reference the CURF in your code section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

What is the difference between unit record data and aggregate data?

Unit record data lists individual values of variables for the record. Aggregate data collapses variables across multiple records. Aggregate data examples include means, medians, ranges or regressions. Unit record data includes individual records from the CURF. Greater protections are placed on unit record data and can limit the output you are able to receive. With aggregate data, the greater the level of aggregation, the greater amount of data you can output. Note that when working with unit record data, ABS unit identifiers must be retained. For further information see Retention of ABS identifiers section of the User Manual: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

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SURVEY AND REPLICATE WEIGHTS

How should I use survey weights in my model?

How do I use normalization with SAS, SPSS and Stata?

How can I use the replicate weights in analysis or estimation of sampling error?

What parameters do I use with the svr suite of commands in Stata?

Where can I find useful references on the use of survey weights in modelling?

How should I use survey weights in my model?

Survey weights are most commonly used to produce estimates of aggregates, means, and quantiles for a population. The use of weights for more complex survey analysis is less clear-cut. There is no one unified view by statisticians on if, and how, weights should be used when undertaking a modelling exercise.

The decision whether to use weights or not could have an effect on point estimates produced from the model, not only in terms of magnitude but possibly also in terms of sign and significance. Standard errors of these estimates will also differ in magnitude depending on whether weights are used. In general, use of survey weights in the model should lead to accurate point estimates. However, the standard errors of these estimates will not tend to be as accurate.

One approach that may help in partially addressing the issue of less accurate standard errors is to first normalize the weights. Normalizing of weights involves multiplying the weight of each person by a constant factor so that they add up to a desired value. For the purposes of survey analysis, it is common to normalize the weights to add up to the sample total. It is suggested that normalized weights be calculated at state level where possible due to the different sampling fractions that are used in each state.

State-level normalized weights can be calculated by multiplying the person weight of an individual within state h by the proportion of people in the state that were in the sample:

$$\tilde{w}_{i,h} = w_{i,h} \left(\frac{n_h}{N_h} \right)$$

where

$\tilde{w}_{i,h}$ is the normalized weight for unit i in state h

$w_{i,h}$ is the original person weight for unit i in state h

n_h is the sample total in state h

N_h is the population total in state h

How do I use normalization with SAS, SPSS and Stata?

Support for normalized weights in modelling varies for each of the different software packages available in the RADL.

SAS

When using the LOGISTIC or PHREG procedures, users may specify an option /NORMALIZE when using the 'weight' statement. This will cause the weights specified by the 'weight' statement to add to the total sample size. Note that this option does not necessarily produce normalized weights at state level.

SPSS

Minimal support for normalized weights.

Stata

When producing some models, Stata will rescale the specified weights to add to the total sample size.

How can I use the replicate weights in analysis or estimation of sampling error?

While SAS v9.1 provides the *PROC SURVEYMEANS* procedure and Stata v10 provides the *svy* suite of commands, these facilities do not use replicate weights. Rather than using replicate weights these facilities require identification of both stratification and clustering. To help protect against disclosure of individuals, these details have not been included on the CURF. The user written *svr* suite of procedures is available for RADL Stata users. These procedures are made available but are not supported by the ABS.

What parameters do I use with the svr suite of commands in Stata?

The methodology used should be set to *jk1*:

```
svrset set meth jk1
```

The ABS uses the *delete 1 group jackknife* method rather than the *unstratified delete 1 jackknife* method that *jk1* specifies. However this setting, when used in conjunction with the other parameters below, produces suitable estimates of variance of estimates.

The other parameters will vary depending on the variable names for the primary and the replicate weights and the number of replicate weights. For example, if the primary weight on the CURF was 'PRSNWGHT', and if there were 30 replicates groups and the replicate weights were named RW1 to RW30, then the remaining parameters would be set using:

```
svrset set pw PRSNWGHT
```

```
svrset set rw RW*
```

```
svrset set dof 29
```

Note that the *dof* parameter should be set to the number of replicate groups minus one.

Refer to the technical information for further information about the weights on your CURF, via the 'CURF reference documentation' link in the navigator of the RADL.

A useful summary of replicate weights is available in the Stata help documentation: http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/stata/Library/replicate_weights.htm

Where can I find useful references on the use of survey weights in modelling?

The following references may assist your decision on whether or not to use survey weights for your particular purpose. They have been selected as a cross-section of discussion on the issue of using weights in models.

Chambers, R.L. and C.J. Skinner (eds.) (2003), **Analysis of Survey Data**, Chichester: Wiley.

DuMouchel, W.H. and G.J. Duncan, (1983) "Using Sample Survey Weights in Multiple Regression Analyses of Stratified Samples", **Journal of the American Statistical Association**, Vol. 78, No. 383. (September), pp. 535-543.

Magee, L., Robb, A.L., and J. B. Burbidge, (1998), "On the use of sampling weights when estimating regression models with survey data", **Journal of Econometrics**, Volume 84, Issue 2 (June), Pages 251-27.1

Pfeffermann, D. (1993), "The Role of Sampling Weights When Modeling Survey Data", **International Statistical Review**, Vol. 61, No. 2. (August), pp. 317-337.

Pfeffermann, D (1996), "The Use of Sampling Weights for Survey Data Analysis", **Statistical Methods in Medical Research**, 5, pp. 239-261.

Skinner, C.J., Holt, D., and T.M.F Smith (1989), **Analysis of Complex Surveys**, Chichester: Wiley.

Winship, C., and L. Radbill (1994), "Sampling Weights and Regression Analysis." **Sociological Methods and Research** 23(2):230-257.

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RADL HELP

RADL has help information located in the left navigator of the RADL via the links 'CURF reference documentation', 'Information for all RADL users' and 'ABS alerts'. These provide a range of information designed to help RADL users, including:

- general information for getting started with SAS, SPSS and Stata
- CURF referencing information including library references for the each level of each CURF
- CURF frequency and weighting reports to assist you in validating your results
- links to CURF technical manuals, providing information regarding the data items and variables for each CURF
- alert documents providing information about any RADL outages.

RADL users should also use the log files to help resolve problems in obtaining output. Further information is provided in the Errors and problems section of this manual.

If you encounter any problems accessing or using the RADL, email the RADL Administrator at radl@abs.gov.au or phone 02 6252 7714.

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This User Manual provides ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) users and potential users with information about confidentialised unit record files (CURFs). It describes RADL functionality and supporting processes, and details rules for using commands in the three analytical languages supported (SAS, SPSS and Stata).

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22/02/2012 - Information held in this manual has been updated to include updated technical information on the RADL, more detail on the roles and responsibilities of RADL users and a comprehensive list of RADL Frequently asked questions

Formerly: ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL): User Guide.

17/08/2012 - Changes to this user manual have been made to reflect changes made to the RADL home page interface.

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